

Message Text

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41

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 DHA-02 L-01 H-01 SP-02 INR-05

CIAE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 /039 W

----- 110588

R 081006Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2280

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 5423

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS GDS

TAGS: PINT, UR

SUBJECT: TVERDOKHLEBOV TRIAL

REF: MOSCOW 5294, 5004

1. A CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF TVERDOKHLEBOV CONFIRMED TO US APRIL 7 THAT THE POSTPONEMENT OF TVERDOKHLEBOV'S TRIAL (REFTELS) WAS DUE TO A GENUINE ILLNESS OF THE JUDGE ASSIGNED TO THE CASE. OUR SOURCE SAYS THAT THE TRIAL HAS BEEN POSTPONED TO APRIL 15 OR APRIL 17. HE UNDERSTANDS IT WILL BE HELD AT THE LUBLINO DISTRICT COURT, AS EARLIER PLANNED. HE COMMENTS THAT THE DEFENSE IS NOT SORRY AT THE POSTPONEMENT, NOT BECAUSE IT WILL MAKE THE SLIGHTEST DIFFERENCE TO THE OUTCOME OF THE TRIAL ITSELF, BUT BECAUSE IT WILL GIVE MORE TIME TO ORGANIZE A PRESSURE CAMPAIGN IN THE WEST. THE WESTERN CHAPTERS OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ARE LEADING THE EFFORTS TO PROTEST AND OUR SOURCE FEELS THAT THEY WILL FIND THE ADDITIONAL TIME USEFUL.

2. OUR SOURCE ADDED THAT HE FELT THAT THE PROSECUTION MIGHT WELL CHOOSE TO ASK FOR A LONG SENTENCE OF EXILE WITHIN THE USSR RATHER THAN IMPRISONING TVERDOKHLEBOV. HE SAID THAT THE AUTHORITIES MIGHT DECIDE THAT EXILING TVERDOKHLEBOV WOULD TAKE HIM OUT OF CIRCULATION AS EFFECTIELY AS PUTTING
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HIM IN PRISON. A SENTENCE OF EXILE COULD BE PORTRAYED AS

SHOWING CLEMENCY. ON THIS REASONING, A RELATIVELY LONG EXILE
WOULD ENGENDER LESS ADVERSE REACTION IN THE WEST THAN WOULD
A SHORTER SENTENCE OF IMPRISONMENT.
STOESSEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL PRISONERS, POLITICAL TRIALS, DISSIDENT FACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW05423
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760133-0271
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760483/aaaacsxr.tel
Line Count: 65
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 76 MOSCOW 5294
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 MAY 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <02 SEP 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TVERDOKHLEBOV TRIAL
TAGS: PINT, UR, (TVERDOKHLEBOV, ANDREI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006